



## **Mental Health Update**

June 30, 2006

### **Supported Employment Film for Japan**

On June 23, Barbara Granger from Horizon House, a Southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware provider of services to 3,000 individuals with various disabilities including mental illness, visited the Howard Center for Human Services (HCHS) to interview and film staff involved in supported employment. Accompanied by a film crew, she interviewed case managers, psychiatrists, residential staff, employers, consumers, employment counselors, and Vermont's evidence-based supported employment project coordinator about evidence-based supported employment. HCHS' employment program, Westview Employment Services, is involved in a Knowledge Exchange Grant with Japan that Horizon House coordinates. One piece of this grant is to produce a supported employment film and translate it into Japanese. This film will be available as a learning tool in many regions of Japan. For more information about this project, please visit their website at <http://www.hhinc.org>

### **Revised Certificate of Approval (COA) Procedures Available for Public Comment**

The June 9, 2006, Mental Health Update discussed the development of a revised application packet and procedures for Designated Agencies planning to implement projects that involve large capital expenditures. The Vermont Department of Health's Division of Mental Health (VDH DMH) and the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) have developed these revised review procedures to create clarity and efficiency for the application and review process. The revised procedures have been presented to the Statewide Adult, Developmental Services and Children's Standing Committees for comment, and are now available for public comment.

For those interested in reviewing the revised procedures, they are posted in this week's Mental Health update at <http://healthvermont.gov/mh/update/mhupdate.aspx>

The original application questions are included for reference as are the financial tables that must accompany the questions. The Revised COA Application procedures will be using the same financial tables.

Comments should be directed to Dawn Philibert, Mental Health Systems Development Director at the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Mental Health, 108 Cherry Street, P.O. Box 70, Burlington, Vermont 05402 or by e-mail at [dphilib@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:dphilib@vdh.state.vt.us)  
The deadline for submitting comments is July 21, 2006.

## **FUTURES PROJECT**

### **Community Recovery Residence: Williamstown**

The Community Recovery Residence (CRR) Work Group met earlier this month to review progress towards program start up and to set tasks for the next meeting (See meeting schedule and minutes posted). The program team has been interviewing patients and staff on the Brooks Rehabilitation unit to identify potential residents; has consulted with the State Police regarding coverage; has filed a formal application for approval with VDH; and will develop program policies for review at the next work group meeting. In addition, both VSH and CRR leaders will develop a plan to ensure that VSH beds are not back-filled with other patients behind those transitioning to the CRR and that any new transfers to the Brooks Rehabilitation Unit are also considered for admission to the Community Recovery Residence (CRR).

### **Futures Advisory Committee**

At their meeting this month, the Futures Advisory Committee discussed issues about legal status, coercion and strategies to increase collaboration between treatment providers and consumers. At the request of the committee, Assistant Attorney General, Wendy Beininger, clarified legal status (such as Orders of Hospitalization and Non-Hospitalization) and involuntary interventions (both emergency and non-emergency). Attorney Jack McCullough of the Vermont Mental Health Law project offered observations and clarifications. Committee members agreed to further develop a framework outlining how Futures programs could increase choice and collaboration. In addition, work groups and the full committee will consider the pros and cons of implementing Vermont's non-emergency involuntary medication law (ACT 114) in settings beyond VSH. Minutes of this meeting are posted with this update.

### **Burlington Housing & Human Services Network Group**

Over 20 leaders, staff and peers from the greater Burlington community assembled this week to learn about the Futures project and to express concerns and ideas. Overall, the housing and human services infrastructure in Burlington is very strong but at the same time, saturated with demands. Leaders and program staff expressed skepticism about the idea of locating new inpatient beds in the most expensive housing market in the state, and were very concerned that the Futures plan would result in a new influx of people requiring extensive health, housing and human services supports. We agreed to:

- Conduct a gaps analysis of the current infrastructure;
- Identify the likely impacts of locating 30-40 new inpatient psychiatric beds on this infrastructure; and
- Develop strategies to mitigate these impacts.

## **VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL CENSUS**

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 50 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 48.8.